(c) wether it is also a fact that the Management of the temple has assured that the proposed Mahadwara would not alter the basic and existing structure of the temple; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and when the required permission would be granted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from the Managing Committee of Shri Mangaladevi Temple for constructing a Mahadwara on the ancient foundation by replicating the ancient features and is under technical scruitiny.

Promotion of Adventure Tourism in H.P.

726. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for providing wayside amenities cafeteria and toilets in the Institute Complex of Manali in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for promotion of Adventure Tourism and Training in Mountain Rescue to Tribal people of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above separately; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No such proposals are under consideration in the Department of Tourism at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Cultural/Folklore festivals in foreign countries

727. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to organize cultural/ folklore festivals in various foreign countries to tap new markets for Inbound tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are looking forward to implement such proposals to promote India to new countries as a tourist destination; and

(d) if so, the details of the groundwork prepared therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) With a view to promote cultural tourism in the overseas markets, the Government as a part of its on going promotional activities organises/ supports cultural/folklore programmes. This is a routine activity undertaken in both existing and new potential markets.

Recovery in Tourism Activities

728. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been some recovery in tourism activities;

(b) if so, whether leading hotels, airports and tourist spots have shown in the months of June, 2002 onwards that foreign tourists feel safe in India;

(c) if so, to what extent tourist arrivals from June, 2002 onwards have picked up; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) There has been a positive growth of 16.8 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals in the month of October, 2002 as compared to October, 2001.

(b) According to a survey report released in the month of June, 2002 by the Hotel Association of India, majority of the tourist did not perceive any threat to their safety & security and preferred air travel in India only on account of safety.

(c) The tourist arrivals are estimated to have increased from 143100 in June, 2002 to 212191 in October, 2002.